

patenting over the claims of Marshall et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,020,929 (hereafter "Marshall").

The Examiner indicated, however, that claims 15-27 appear allowable over the prior art.

Summary of Applicants' Reply

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claims 15-27 appear to be allowable over the prior art.

Applicants have filed concurrently with this Reply a Terminal Disclaimer.

The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed. Applicants respectfully submit that this application, as amended, is in condition for allowance.

Applicants' Reply to The Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 12-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Davis et al. U.S. Patent 5,559,548. The Davis patent is a continuation-in-part of United States Patent Application No. 08/247,059 which was filed on May 20, 1994. However, the present application is a continuation of Application No. 08/574,544, filed November 20, 1997, which is a continuation of Application No. 08/599,143, filed February 9, 1996, which is a continuation of parent patent application Application No. 08/234,060, filed April 28, 1994. The present application is therefore entitled to the benefit of the April 28, 1994 filing date

of the earliest related application. As a result, the Davis reference is not prior art to the present application. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) to claims 1 and 12-14 be withdrawn.

Applicants' Reply To  
Double Patenting Rejection

The Examiner rejected claims 2-11 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Marshall.

Applicants have submitted a Terminal Disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.321(c) concurrently with this Reply. Applicants respectfully submit that this Terminal Disclaimer overcomes the double patenting rejection, and therefore request that double patenting rejection of claims 2-11 be withdrawn.

Conclusion

For at least the reasons set forth above, applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, prompt

reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully submitted.

Respectfully submitted,



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